

MICHIGAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT Rewrite
Statement of Position
Macomb County
September 2, 2005

In the public interest, Macomb County government, Macomb Intermediate School District (ISD), and the local school districts of Macomb County respectfully submit the following:

That advances made as a result of the Michigan Telecommunications Act of 1996 (MTA) should be preserved and continued and that these benefits include:

- Enhanced Competition and Innovation
- Reduced Telecommunications Services Costs
- Improved and Expanded Services for citizens through
 - Government
 - Education
 - Business

That these advances have been of substantial benefit to the residents of Macomb county via the improved and expanded services of Macomb County government, Macomb ISD, and, Macomb's local school districts. Additional value to citizens throughout our state has been realized via numerous other county and local governments, ISDs, and local school districts, as well as in the business and service industries within Macomb County and surrounding regions.

That Macomb County government, Macomb ISD, and Macomb's local school districts have invested over \$10,000,000.00 in telecommunications infrastructure, a one-time cost, enabling the delivery of valuable services to its respective local units of government and school districts both currently and in the future. Further, that these projects were undertaken in accordance with standard contracting processes, that virtually all aspects of the projects were completed by private sector companies, and that in all cases, incumbent "full-service" telecommunications companies did not offer less expensive solutions.

That through ownership of its infrastructure, the recurring/annual costs to Macomb County government, Macomb ISD, and Macomb's local school districts are low, thereby demonstrating fiscal prudence, especially significant during the current economic downturn, while simultaneously maintaining excellent service levels.

That due to the MTA's provision for educational consortia and Macomb County's collective foresight, Macomb County has available to its business community an alternative private telecommunications provider for high-speed, secured, private networking. Further, that some of these services were not and are not available from existing telecommunications providers.

That these benefits should not be impeded into the future either for services currently rendered or for new services, and that our state continue to foster the spirit of competition and innovation. That while the MTA was passed in 1996, it was not until after the Year 2000 crisis had passed that the benefits have begun to be realized, and that these beginnings need to continue to be nurtured and supported.

That, in respect of the benefits and circumstances listed above, and others not listed, any rewrite, modification, or renewal of the Michigan Telecommunication Act, should not repeal, extinguish, curtail, or prohibit government or education, retrospectively or prospectively, from engaging in sound local decision-making with respect to telecommunication infrastructure or service delivery, construction, ownership, or use.